

Birmingham, Matthew

From: Birmingham, Matthew
Sent: Monday, November 26, 2018 9:24 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: ADL NECTS and VSP

[REDACTED]

Thank you contacting me regarding the ADL New England's 2018 Leadership, Resilience and Counter-Terrorism Seminar in Israel. After further deliberation and consultation, I have decided that the Vermont State Police will not be participating in this seminar. I want to thank you for your thoughts and concerns.

Sincerely,

Col. Birmingham

Colonel Matthew T. Birmingham
Director
Vermont State Police
45 State Drive
Waterbury, VT 05671
802-241-5485

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 21, 2018 10:01 AM
To: Birmingham, Matthew <Matthew.Birmingham@vermont.gov>
Cc: Carr, Karen <Karen.Carr@vermont.gov>
Subject: re: ADL NECTS and VSP

Dear Col. Birmingham,

I understand from your executive assistant Ms. Carr that you canceled our Tuesday meeting because you are considering ending the Vermont State Police's participation in an upcoming ADL sponsored training in Israel, and that requires further consultation on your part. If you are indeed aware of the potential problems associated with sending VSP personnel to Israel, then I support your thoughtful consideration and consultation on this matter.

From public records requests, I have learned that ADL's police exchange trips involve meetings with representatives of the Israeli military, police, secret service and riot police. These agencies have a well documented history of violence and grave human rights abuses, particularly in the areas of racial profiling, surveillance, mistreatment of prisoners, and suppression of social movements. I do not believe that Israeli armed forces should be held up as any kind of model for US police; to do so is to normalize and legitimize the human rights abuses they routinely commit.

Vermonters are working extremely hard to keep our communities safe from ICE and violent policing-- the last thing we need is for the State Police to receive training that encourages police militarization and a view of social movements as "terrorist threats". I'm sorry you decided not to meet until after you have made your decision-- my colleague and I would have appreciated the opportunity to present these concerns in person, and believe it would have assisted you in

Birmingham, Matthew

From: Birmingham, Matthew
Sent: Monday, November 26, 2018 9:23 AM
To: 'Trestan, Robert'
Cc: Ben Sasson-Gordis, Talia
Subject: RE: ADL Trip Take Aways

Good morning,

Thank you for this information. After further deliberation and consultation I have made the decision to withdraw from the ADL New England Leadership, Resilience and Counter-Terrorism Seminar in Israel. This decision was not made lightly and I would be happy to discuss further details via telephone this week.

Thank you for the invitation and opportunity to participate. I have no doubt it will be a productive trip for all involved.

Best,

Col. Matthew Birmingham
Vermont State Police

From: Trestan, Robert <RTrestan@adl.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 20, 2018 10:28 AM
To: Birmingham, Matthew <Matthew.Birmingham@vermont.gov>
Cc: Ben Sasson-Gordis, Talia <TaliaB@adl.org>
Subject: ADL Trip Take Aways

See attached

Robert O. Trestan
Regional Director

40 Court Street, 12th Floor
Boston MA 02108

rtrestan@adl.org
adl.org

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FIGHTING HATE FOR GOOD



Birmingham, Matthew

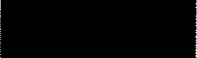
From: Birmingham, Matthew
Sent: Thursday, November 29, 2018 2:31 PM
To: Silverman, Adam
Subject: FW: ADL Trip Take Aways
Attachments: Israel Trip Take Aways.docx

From: Trestan, Robert <RTrestan@adl.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 20, 2018 10:28 AM
To: Birmingham, Matthew <Matthew.Birmingham@vermont.gov>
Cc: Ben Sasson-Gordis, Talla <TallaB@adl.org>
Subject: ADL Trip Take Aways

See attached

Robert O. Trestan
Regional Director

40 Court Street, 12th Floor
Boston MA 02108


rtrestan@adl.org
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Take-aways from the Leadership Seminar in Israel: Resiliency and Counterterrorism

- ADL's Leadership Seminar in Israel: Resiliency and Counterterrorism provides senior American law enforcement leaders with educational opportunities that help them better prevent and respond to terrorist threats, active shooter situations, and mass casualty attacks in the United States. Each year, approximately 50 law enforcement officials participate in this trip to Israel.
- Participants go behind the scenes to see the security strategies and systems that Israel uses to prevent terror attacks at holy sites and public places.
- Participants meet with senior officials from both Israeli and Palestinian law enforcement to learn about the challenges that they face and how they overcome them.
- The Israel National Police (INP) has more firsthand experience in preventing and responding to terror attacks than their US counterparts. Examining what Israel has learned from its long struggle against terror enables American law enforcement leaders to better understand terrorism and prepare for attacks in the US.
- The itineraries for each seminar vary slightly, due to the availability of speakers and access to sites, but generally include discussions on the evolving nature of terrorism and insights into how their agency can improve its protection and engagement with the people and communities it serves. Examples include:
 - Understanding evolving terrorist tactics. Israel has seen a rise in the use of vehicles as weapons, such as the car ramming which killed a counter-protester during the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, VA.
 - Preventing and responding to terror attacks. Protecting infrastructure, public places and public transportation; balancing fighting crime and terror; responding to community attacks by rocket fire.
 - Unity of command and effective inter-agency communication. In Israel, there is only one person in charge at the scene of a terror attack—the senior Israel Police officer, who has authority over not just the police, but all first responders and emergency services.
 - Sharing information with the public. In the wake of a terror attack, the Israel National Police release the specifics of what happened quickly and directly. Providing the public with concrete information helps to mitigate the impact. This also includes understanding how to work with the media.
 - Building resilience and returning to normal. The Israel National Police's goal is to complete their investigation of an attack, restoring disrupted services and resume

“normal” within hours. The INP has found “returning to normal” to be vitally important for public morale and confidence in the face of terror attacks.

- The use of community liaisons. The Israel National Police safeguard ethnically, racially and religiously diverse communities throughout Israel and uses community liaisons to establish communication and trust.
- The importance of understanding local dynamics. In Jerusalem, a holy city for Judaism, Christianity and Islam—the INP must not only ensure the safety of worshippers and sacred sites, but must be able to work with each faith group to resolve issues before they can escalate into an international incident.

Birmingham, Matthew

From: Birmingham, Matthew
Sent: Thursday, November 29, 2018 2:36 PM
To: Hall, Glenn; Trudeau, Daniel; Jonas, Ingrid; Merrigan, John
Subject: FW: Press Release: Vermont State Police Training with Israeli Military Cancelled

From: Silverman, Adam
Sent: Thursday, November 29, 2018 2:21 PM
To: Birmingham, Matthew <Matthew.Birmingham@vermont.gov>
Subject: FW: Press Release: Vermont State Police Training with Israeli Military Cancelled

Here you go.

~Adam

From: John Dillon <jdillon@vpr.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 29, 2018 2:17 PM
To: Silverman, Adam <Adam.Silverman@vermont.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Press Release: Vermont State Police Training with Israeli Military Cancelled

Hi Adam,

Would Col. Birmingham be available to talk on the phone about this?

Thanks,

John

John Dillon

VPR and New England News Collaborative
(802) 654-4368 (w)
(802) 223-4685 (w, Montpelier)

@VPRDillon

From: "Rachel Siegel" <rachel@picvt.org>
To: news@vpr.net
Sent: Thursday, November 29, 2018 12:32:23 PM
Subject: Press Release: Vermont State Police Training with Israeli Military Cancelled

Media Contacts:

Kathy Shapiro
Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform
shapiro.kathy@gmail.com (802) 249-8782

Wafic Faour, Vermonters for Justice in Palestine
waficfaour@gmail.com (802) 310-0212

Rachel Siegel, Executive Director, Peace & Justice Center; Executive Director
rachel@picvt.org (802) 777-2627

For Immediate Release: November 29, 2018

Montpelier, VT (November 29, 2018): For the first time in 20 years, the all expense-paid trips to Israel that bring together American law enforcement with Israeli military and riot police have run into a snag -- from Montpelier to New Haven, Northampton to Providence, local residents have been contacting their elected officials and police departments, demanding they end their participation in the programs. In Vermont, activists requested a meeting with the State Police Director Colonel Birmingham, collected 11 organizational endorsements on a petition, and organized dozens of residents across the state to send personal emails asking the director to "Skip the Trip."



Earlier this week, Colonel Birmingham told local organizers from across Vermont that he had cancelled the Vermont State Police's participation in the Anti-Defamation League's upcoming Leadership, Resilience and Counter-Terrorism Seminar in Israel, scheduled Dec. 2-11. The next day, after a meeting with concerned Pioneer Valley residents, Northampton Mayor Narkewicz withdrew Police Commissioner Kasper from the same trip.

With the growing concern about US law enforcement's treatment of asylum seekers at the US-Mexico border, New England residents are asking if they want their local police receiving training from the Israeli military. According to the VT National Lawyers Guild chair Henry Harris, "To support shared training and tactics with the Israeli occupation is to lose all credibility and morality in public view of the people of Vermont." Bernadine Mellis, a professor at Mount Holyoke College and a member of the Northampton coalition points out "Our police chiefs' salaries are tax-payer funded. While they're abroad on these trainings, we're still paying their salaries. We don't know anything about the actual content of these trainings... That lack of transparency is extremely concerning."

The Leadership, Resilience and Counter-Terrorism Seminar, (previously called the Counter-Terrorism Seminar) has run annually since 2002. Organized and funded by the Anti-Defamation League, the trips' participants include police chiefs and sheriffs from across the country as well as FBI agents, US Air Marshals, and ICE agents, including the former Deputy Director of ICE in 2015.

This is the first time that any invitees have withdrawn, the result of the growing national campaign Deadly Exchange, a project of Jewish Voice for Peace, and intensive research involving over one hundred records requests.

Stefanie Fox, deputy director at Jewish Voice for Peace and an active member of *Deadly Exchange* pointed out that, "These cancellations prove that when people learn that their local police are going to get training by the Israeli military, they get upset and they organize. It's pretty clear that people don't want their local police being militarized – and they don't think that the Israeli military and law enforcement are a good model to follow."

The petition calling on the Colonel to cancel participation in the seminar was sent to him on November 27th and was signed by Vermonters for Justice in Palestine; Students for Justice in Palestine, UVM; Justice for All; Migrant Justice; Peace & Justice Center; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Burlington Chapter; Black Lives Matter of Greater Burlington; Jubilee Justice Committee, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington VT; Green Mountain Solidarity with Palestine; New England Yearly Meeting of Friends, Israel-Palestine Working Group; National Lawyers Guild Vermont; Brattleboro Common Sense; and Jewish Voice for Peace.

Interviews are available with local residents active in the Vermont campaign as well as the Northampton campaign, and with staff and members of Jewish Voice for Peace.

"We are very encouraged by the Vermont State Police's decision not to participate in this counter-productive training. Whether it's the Israeli military or Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Vermont law enforcement should not be taking its cues from agencies with clear track records of human rights abuses."

Will Lamibek, Migrant Justice

"Vermonters need to push our legislature and law enforcement in the other way, breaking the glass ceiling on the Fair and Impartial Policing Policy and releasing nonviolent incarcerated people, especially people of color, imprisoned by this State."

Henry Harris, Chair, VT National Lawyers Guild

"The Peace & Justice Center signed the petition to the VSP because we oppose the oppression Israeli governments involvement and torment of the Palestinian people and do not want our local law enforcement to adopt Israeli tactics. We believe in nonviolent action and community organizing. The fact that you responded to the community outcry of resistance shows that grassroots organizing and communal action are meaningful and valuable. Thank you for listening to the people you serve -- Vermonters. I applaud the VSP for cancelling the trip and implore you to pledge to prohibit any future participation in law enforcement exchange programs with the Israeli military."

Rachel Siegel, Peace & Justice Center

"Our state police need to root out institutional racism in their operations, to cease perceiving people of color as threats, to uphold the dignity of all persons, and to learn how to de-escalate conflict. These are skills and attitudes they can learn here in the states. Let the decision to not learn from Israeli militarization be a catalyst for incorporating a new paradigm of non-violence and mitigation of institutional racism in Vermont according to our own laws."

Sylvia Knight, Jubilee Justice Committee, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington VT

"The tactics taught are inhumane and are used in the continued killing and oppression of communities of color across the nation and the globe. Law enforcement and elected officials

should understand that we as a community are watching and will hold them accountable for their actions (and inactions)."

Mark Hughes, Justice for All

For more information about the national campaign to end US-Israeli law enforcement partnerships, see <https://deadlyexchange.org>

Vermonters for Justice in Palestine works to support the Palestinian people in their struggle for human rights and to end the illegal, immoral, and brutal Israeli occupation through education, advocacy, and action. We are committed to the principles of self-determination for the Palestinian people, the right of return for Palestinian refugees, and full civil and political rights for all Palestinians in order to promote the equality and safety of both Palestinians and Israelis.
<https://vtjp.org/>

Peace & Justice Center | 60 Lake St Ste 1C, Burlington, VT 05401

Unsubscribe_news@vpr.net

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Sent by rachel@pjcvr.org in collaboration with

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Birmingham, Matthew

From: Birmingham, Matthew
Sent: Thursday, November 29, 2018 2:38 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Press Release: Vermont State Police Training with Israeli Military Cancelled

From: "Rachel Siegel" <rachel@plcvt.org>
To: news@vpr.net
Sent: Thursday, November 29, 2018 12:32:23 PM
Subject: Press Release: Vermont State Police Training with Israeli Military Cancelled

Media Contacts:

Kathy Shapiro
Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform
shapiro.kathy@gmail.com (802) 249-3782

Wafic Faour, Vermonters for Justice in Palestine
waficfaour@gmail.com (802) 310-0212

Rachel Siegel, Executive Director, Peace & Justice Center; Executive Director
rachel@plcvt.org (802) 777-2627

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Earlier this week, Colonel Birmingham told local organizers from across Vermont that he had cancelled the Vermont State Police's participation in the Anti-Defamation League's upcoming Leadership, Resilience and Counter-Terrorism Seminar in Israel, scheduled Dec. 2-11. The next

**VT
JP**

Birmingham, Matthew

From: Birmingham, Matthew
Sent: Thursday, November 29, 2018 2:37 PM
To: 'Wagner, Christopher'
Subject: FW: Press Release: Vermont State Police Training with Israeli Military Cancelled

FYI

From: "Rachel Siegel" <rachel@pjcv.org>
To: news@vpr.net
Sent: Thursday, November 29, 2018 12:32:23 PM
Subject: Press Release: Vermont State Police Training with Israeli Military Cancelled

Media Contacts:

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Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform
shapiro,kathy@gmail.com (802) 249-3782

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Birmingham, Matthew

From: Birmingham, Matthew
Sent: Thursday, November 29, 2018 2:39 PM
To: Anderson, Thomas
Subject: FW: Press Release: Vermont State Police Training with Israeli Military Cancelled

From: "Rachel Siegel" <rachel@pjcv.org>
To: news@vpr.net
Sent: Thursday, November 29, 2018 12:32:23 PM
Subject: Press Release: Vermont State Police Training with Israeli Military Cancelled

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**VT
JP**

Birmingham, Matthew

From: Birmingham, Matthew
Sent: Thursday, November 29, 2018 5:33 PM
To: Silverman, Adam
Subject: FW: Israel Training Cancellation Confirmation

From: Brendan Boyle <BBoyle@mychamplainvalley.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 29, 2018 5:29 PM
To: Birmingham, Matthew <Matthew.Birmingham@vermont.gov>
Subject: Israel Training Cancellation Confirmation

Hello Colonel,
I'm a producer at Local 22/44 News. We received a press release today from Vermonters for Justice in Palestine saying that you had cancelled Vermont State Police's participation in training with the Israeli military in Israel, sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League, scheduled for Dec. 2-11. I was wondering if you could confirm this information for me, and whether the decision was based on the petition they say they sent you earlier this week.

Thanks for your time and sorry for contacting you so late in the day,
Brendan Boyle
Nightside Producer
Local 22/44 News.

Sent from Mali for Windows.10

Birmingham, Matthew

From: Birmingham, Matthew
Sent: Thursday, November 29, 2018 9:03 PM
To: Anderson, Thomas
Subject: State police leader backs out of training in Israe...

<https://vtdigger.org/2018/11/29/state-police-leader-backs-training-israel-blowback/>

Birmingham, Matthew

From: Birmingham, Matthew
Sent: Thursday, November 29, 2018 9:06 PM
To: Silverman, Adam
Subject: State police leader backs out of training in Israe...

<https://vtdigger.org/2018/11/29/state-police-leader-backs-training-israel-blowback/>

Birmingham, Matthew

From: Birmingham, Matthew
Sent: Friday, November 30, 2018 10:21 AM
To: Anderson, Thomas
Subject: Re: State police leader backs out of training in Israe...

Yes

From: Anderson, Thomas <thomas.anderson@vermont.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 30, 2018 10:20 AM
To: Birmingham, Matthew
Subject: RE: State police leader backs out of training in Israo...

Was Adam able to give Rebecca Kelly a heads up on this?

From: Birmingham, Matthew
Sent: Thursday, November 29, 2018 9:03 PM
To: Anderson, Thomas <Thomas.Anderson@vermont.gov>
Subject: State police leader backs out of training in Israe...

<https://vtldigger.org/2018/11/29/state-police-leader-backs-training-israel-blowback/>

Birmingham, Matthew

From: Birmingham, Matthew
Sent: Friday, November 30, 2018 10:41 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Trip to Israel

Do you have time for a call? Number?

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 30, 2018 10:37 AM
To: Birmingham, Matthew
Subject: Fwd: Trip to Israel

Sent from my iPhone/iPad. [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Nov 30, 2018, 10:22 AM -0500
To: thomas.anderson@vermont.gov, Matthew Birmingham
Subject: Trip to Israel

Tom and Matt,

I'm hearing concerns from the Jewish community over the ADL trip (I'm Jewish). If I can help provide insight or assistance, please don't hesitate to ask.

Best,
[REDACTED]

(Matt, nice job at [REDACTED] funeral)

Sent from my iPhone/iPad. [REDACTED]

Birmingham, Matthew

From: Birmingham, Matthew
Sent: Saturday, December 1, 2018 9:41 AM
To: 'Noel March'; Chris Wagner
Subject: RE: Israel II

I was planning to go but withdrew. Long story. Enjoy the trip!

Matt

-----Original Message-----

From: Noel March <noel.march@maine.edu>
Sent: Friday, November 30, 2018 2:00 PM
To: Birmingham, Matthew <Matthew.Birmingham@vermont.gov>; Chris Wagner <christopher.wagner@dos.nh.gov>
Subject: Israel II

Gentlemen - I just left Col. John Cote's office....he said that perhaps either of you might be travelling with the ADL to Israel next week.

I am also on that trip, are you too?

Best, Noel

Noel C. March
Chief of Police
Senior Director of Public Safety
University of Southern Maine
28 Husky Drive
Gorham, ME 04038
[REDACTED]